

Business Meeting of the Waterbird Society
Annual meeting minutes
6 October 2006; Veracruz, Mexico

1. The meeting was called to order by the president at 1745. President Francie Cuthbert welcomed attendees and reviewed the agenda.
2. Approval of Minutes—voted to approve minutes from the 2005 Business Meeting of the Waterbird Society which took place on Jekyll Island, GA, USA.
3. Introductions—Francie introduced herself, the other officers, and councilors of the society. Ian Nisbet was recognized as one of the plenary speakers at the current conference. New members to the society (including those recruited at the society's information table) were welcomed.
4. Secretary's Report—provided by Kathy Parsons and included highlights of the 2006 Executive Council meeting as follows:
 - a. Successful election in which Clay Green was voted secretary; Jennifer Stucker, Xavier Ruiz, and Ricardo Zambrano were elected councilors.
 - b. Excellent reports from the Financial Committee and Treasurer. The Waterbird Society is operating in the black and has surpassed its endowment threshold (3-year average at \$100,000) for discretionary investment of interest. The cash flow account was sufficient to transfer funds to the endowment, and the proposed 2007 budget looks promising.
 - c. Editor reports high interest in the journal and extensive use of associate editors.
 - d. Future meetings are planned for Barcelona, Spain (2007) and South Padre Island, TX (2008).
 - e. Membership Committee reports stable membership; at all-time high.
 - f. Research Awards Committee distributed awards in 2006 from the Kushlan and Nisbet funds.
 - g. Council reported on new website activity
5. Treasurer's report—Dave Shealer (for Chris Custer) reported that the operating budget is in the black by \$7,000-\$10,000 (final numbers not yet available; additional funds expected to increase revenue). The endowment increased over the year by \$30,000. The Council is developing a plan to use the 4.5% interest now available to further the Society's mission. Details of the 2006 budget included: a) large income from BIOONE (\$5,000 more than expected), b) editorial costs were less than expected, c) decision to increase support to the Ornithological Council (\$500 to \$1,500). Details of proposed 2007 budget included: a) uncertainty of future membership growth due to new dues structure and electronic journal option, b) institutional subscriptions expected to decline, c) BIOONE income may flatten. It was voted by the membership to accept the Treasurer's report.

6. NAOC vs. IOC timing—Francie led a discussion concerning the timing of meeting of the NAOC and IOC. A Presidents' Summit was convened at the present conference to develop recommendations for increasing participation in these quadrennial meetings and strengthening memberships in hemispheric ornithological societies. Discussed option of staggering the scheduling of hemispheric conferences to reduce competition. A straw vote of the membership present revealed that many are indifferent to the issue; about half of attendees expressed desire to have NAOC and IOC continue to meet on the same schedule. Members noted the importance of receiving additional input from WS members not present in Veracruz and especially from students. Mike Gochfeld volunteered to help membership committee draft an electronic questionnaire to solicit additional feedback.
7. Future Meetings—Chip Weseloh reported on the upcoming Barcelona, Spain meeting (late Oct 2007), the South Padre Is, TX meeting (Oct 2008), and a meeting to be held in northeastern North America (ME or possibly Ontario) in 2009.
8. Other Business—Dave Shealer reported on the scientific program developing for the Barcelona meeting (two symposia in the works). The Society's information table at the conference was a big success with approximately ten new members. Francie welcomed all students to the Society and expressed appreciation for everyone's involvement.
9. Adjournment—The membership voted to adjourn the meeting at 1840.